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Derrick Brown

MS PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: **U.S. Patent Application Entitled "SPINAL STABILIZATION SYSTEMS AND METHODS USING MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGICAL PROCEDURES" -- Landry et al., 5259-10700US04**

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is a disclosure including a title page, a 76 page specification, 17 pages of claims (Claims 1-122), and a one page abstract. In addition, we have also included drawings on 50 sheets (figures 1-81). The disclosure and drawings constitute the application of Michael E. Landry, Larry T. Khoo, Erik J. Wagner, Charles R. Forton and Robert J. Jones for the above-entitled invention.

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/422,455 entitled "Spinal Stabilization System Using Polyaxial Members" filed October 30, 2002; U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/466,091 entitled "Spinal Stabilization Systems and Methods Using Minimally Invasive Surgical Procedures" filed April 28, 2003; and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/471,254 entitled "Spinal Stabilization Systems and Methods Using Minimally Invasive Surgical Procedures" filed May 16, 2003. The above-referenced provisional applications are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

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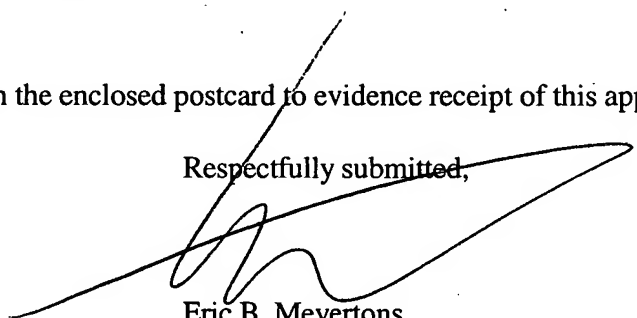
Please note that this application is filed without an inventor Declaration and filing fees. Applicant requests the Patent and Trademark Office to accept this application and accord a serial number and filing date as of the date this application is deposited with the U.S. Postal Service for Express Mail. Further, the Applicant requests that the NOTICE OF MISSING PARTS-FILING DATE GRANTED be sent to the undersigned Applicant representative.

Please address all correspondence in connection with this application to customer number 35690:

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Please date stamp and return the enclosed postcard to evidence receipt of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Eric B. Meyertons, is written over the text "Respectfully submitted," and extends across the signature block.

Eric B. Meyertons
Reg. No. 34,876
Attorney for Applicant

EBM:jl
Enclosures